

The Daily Gazetteer.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30 1737.

No. 549.

From the DUBLIN-SOCIETY.

The following Letter comes from the same Hand with those already published on the Culture of Flax, and requires no Introduction.

GENTLEMEN,



THE next Article to be considered by the Flax-Farmer, is the Quantity of Seed which he ought to sow. And here it will be proper to observe, that there will be always a remarkable Difference in the Produce, in Propotion to the different Quantities which are sown: For, should a smaller Parcel of good Seed be made Use of, it will yield a plentiful Crop of good Seed and strong Flax; but should the Farmer sow a larger Quantity of the same Goodness, his Flax would indeed be finer, and the Increase great, but then his Seed would be much less valuable. The Dutch, who are not at all apprehensive of wanting Seed, generally practise the latter Method. But as their Case differs widely from ours, their Manufacture being arrived to Maturity, ours, in its Infant State; what may be wise in them, may be imprudent in us: Were I therefore to advise, I should chuse to recommend the former Method, until we had brought our Seed to an equal Degree of Perfection and Plenty. Upon the Whole, a great deal must be referred to the Discretion of the Farmer, and an Allowance made for the Difference of Soils equally well laboured; for a good Soil will cherish a large Quantity of Seed, and afford it all that Nutriment which is necessary to bring both Seed and Flax to Perfection; whilst a like Portion of Seed would dwindle and starve in a hungry Soil, and at last return a miserable Crop. As to the particular Quantity of Seed, necessary for a determinate Portion of Land, I shall only observe, that from three or four Bushels, will generally suffice for an Irish Acre, which by the best Computation I could make, answers pretty near to the Practice in Holland and Flanders.

Every Flax-Farmer, I believe, is sufficiently apprised, that good Weather and a warm Season, are very necessary for saving the Flax-Seed, and watering and grafting the Flax: And yet we do not seem to have sufficiently attended to this Particular in Ireland, otherwise we should not, as is generally done, defer the sowing of Flax-Seed until the Spring is too far advanced. In order to rectify this Error, it would be very adviseable, to sow the Seed the first good Season in March, for then, in all Probability, it will be ripe the latter End of June, or Beginning of July; and the Farmer by these Means, will have Time enough before him, for the Purposes above-mentioned. If this Method is pursued, another considerable Advantage will be gained, a good Crop of Turnips may be had upon those Flax-Grounds, that very Season, which would otherwise continue waste and useless the Remainder of the Year.

Since I am engaged in giving Directions for sowing of Flax, I hope I shall be forgiven a short Digression, which may be very useful to the Farmer; when he designs to lay down his Lands, he may safely sow Clover or other Grass-Seeds, a few Days after his Flax-Seed. The Clover is so far from prejudicing Flax, that it is observed to be of remarkable Service to it. It is probable, that it preserves the Dew and Rain about its Roots, and shelters the Ground around them, from the Heat of the Sun; but, be that the Cause or not, long Experience has demonstrated, that they thrive perfectly well together, the Clover producing a good Crop of Gras soon after the Flax is pulled. This Method is constantly practised in Holland and Flanders with good Success, and therefore I can recommend it amongst ourselves.

I have very little to observe about the Manner of sowing Flax-Seed, I shall just take Notice, that the Seeds-man must go up the Ridge in a strait Line, and sow with his Right Hand, and then re-

turn in the same Path, and sow with his Left Hand; for it is of Moment that he should sow evenly. Some Days after this, if he intends to lay down his Grounds, he must sow his Gras-Seeds, and cover them by Bush-harrowing and Rolling; the Manner of doing which is so well known already, that I need not enlarge upon it. For the same Reason, I need say little upon weeding the Flax; it must be done at the Time when it is between two and five Inches high: The treading upon it with the Heels of Shoes will prejudice the Flax, but sitting upon it will do it no harm.

I now come to the Consideration of an Article of the greatest Consequence to the Linen Manufacture, namely, the proper Season of pulling the Flax. And here, Gentlemen, you must bear with me if I enlarge with some Warmth upon this Subject; I have Prejudices to encounter as pernicious as they unhappily are common, and which have so visible a Tendency to defeat all rational Attempts to establish the Linen Manufacture, and make us a flourishing People, that it is not possible to speak of them without Indignation. He does not love his Country who can without more than ordinary Concern see a destructive Practice obstinately adhered to, and industriously supported against the plainest Evidence, and the concurring Testimony of Reason and Experience. If Warmth is at any time becoming, it is certainly where there is a publick and a considerable Interest at Stake. And I will be bold to say, that few Things can equally prejudice this Kingdom, as the perverse mischievous Custom of pulling our Flax too green. 'Tis unaccountable Infatuation in our Farmers, purposely, and with their Eyes open, to throw away a valuable Portion of their Crop, and after repeated Warnings, in the single Article of Seed, industriously deprive themselves of a Return of eight or ten Pounds Sterling, from every Acre that they sow. Nothing but the Prevalency of it could make us overlook so glaring an Absurdity; and where he not countenanced by Numbers, a Man that flings away his own, and buys Foreign Seed at a dear Rate, would be hooted thro' the Country. 'Tis common, and therefore only it is not wondered at; but for that very Reason it becomes more mischievous, and a Matter of general Concern I shall not presume to direct the Legislature; but I cannot conceal my Wishes and my Hopes that they may, at a proper Time, think this pernicious Practice well deserves their Notice. Where Argument and Persuasion have been tried without Success, Laws and Penalties must be called in to secure the publick Good, and, I believe, a Clause to prohibit the pulling of great Flax, would as effectually advance the Interest of this Kingdom, as any Law that has yet been made relating to the Linen Manufacture.

In the mean time, as I would willingly persuade myself, that all among us are not resolved against Conviction, I shall desire those who are willing to hear Reason, to reflect with Seriousness on the unhappy Circumstances we lie under, from the Persevereness of our Farmers. We are dependant not only upon Foreign Markets, but on the Winds and Waves for the Fundamental Part, the very *Primum* of our Manufacture. Every Year the Trade, and consequently the Support of the whole Nation, is in one main Branch of it, exposed to all the Hazards of the Sea: We lie at the Mercy of it in a Point of infinite Importance, and whether our Flax-Dressers, our Spinners, our Weavers, and our Bleachers, shall be useful to their Country by their Labour, or become a Burthen to it, and beg their Bread about our Streets, depends in a great Measure upon that treacherous Element. This very Season, Ireland has lost above Five Thousand Barrels of Flax-Seed, upon that fearful Chance which we every Year must run till we grow wiser, and learn to provide ourselves with a certain and independent Supply of good Seed from our own Lands.

This Consideration alone is of Weight sufficient, one would think, to bring about a Reformation; among those who are capable of Reflection; were it true, that the Flax is in some Degree impaired by standing till the Seed is ripe, it would be, notwithstanding, a wild and inconsistent Conduct, to

run the Hazard of the Whole, to avoid a single Inconvenience in our Staple; but the Case, in Fact, is otherwise: The Flax becomes more valuable, both from its Quantity and Quality, by being allowed to ripen. Upon a moderate Computation, the Farmer, who pulls green, loothes, besides his Seed, more than half of his Flax-Crop; his weak, raw Flax, breaks under the Dressing, runs to Tow, and disappoints him of his Quantity: And what is still of more Importance, the little that he has, is every Way inferior to what it would have been, had he suffered it to stand till it were ripe. In Point of Strength, no Man can be so blind, as to Question the Truth of this Assertion. Maturity is full as requisite to make the Fibres strong in Plants, as it is in Animals; and it were as good Philosophy, to expect Vigour and Robustness from the Gristles of a Child, as to hope for Strength and Toughness in the Fibres of raw Flax. In respect to Fineness, I know our Manufacturers will be against me, and give the Preference to raw Flax, because it splits with little Labour; but, if we may depend upon the Practice of the Flemings, they are undoubtedly mistaken. 'Tis the peculiar Care of those experienced Manufacturers, to let that stand longest, which they intend for the finest Goods; they even venture the shedding of the Seed, to have it as ripe as possible, when it is to be wrought up into the better Kinds of their Cambricks, and their Laces: And surely repeated Trials, would by this Time have convinced them of their Error, if ripe Flax were as coarse and stubborn as we think it. I have not room to enlarge upon this Head at present, and therefore shall beg Leave hereafter to resume the Argument, and to show at large, that the ripest Flax, as it is always the strongest, becomes also, by proper Dressings, both the finest and the softest.

I am, &c.

L O N D O N.

We hear that an Act will pass this Session of Parliament, for regulating the Company of Watermen, in regard to their taking Apprentices.

Yesterday Morning died at his House in Fleet-street, Mr. Fowler, an eminent Banker, and Partner with Mr. Simpson.

We hear that a Dispute has lately arisen between the Jurisdiction of the Court of Exchequer, and Duchy of Lancaster, relating to the Power of renewing the Crown Leases to be granted of the Savoy and the Precincts thereof: His Majesty's Surveyor General of the Crown Revenues, by Direction of the Treasury, has made a Report of the State of the Differences on both Sides, for their Lordships Determination.

And we hear that as soon as their Lordships have given their Opinion, the Leases of the Savoy will be renewed, and the Establishment of a Master and four Chaplains will be settled, according to the ancient Foundation.

On Monday last died at his Lodgings in Chancery-Lane, the Rev. Mr. James Curtis, Minister of Duffery in Glamorganshire.

Yesterday the Serjeants and Corporals of the First Regiment of Foot Guards performed a fine Exercise at Arms in Hyde Park before Col. Fuller.

The same Morning Money was sent from the Pay-Office in Broad-street to Portsmouth, in order to pay the Wages due to the 31st December last to the Companies of his Majesty's Ships the Lancaster, Solebay, Blandford and Lyme.

And to pay the Wages due to the Companies at Plymouth of the Canterbury, Exeter, Grampus, and Saltash Sloop.

On Tuesday next a great Match will be run for from St. Giles's Pound to the upper Green Man at Barnet and back again, for 50 Guineas, between Mr. Allen's Bay Mare, and a Bay Gelding, called, Dick in the Bottom.

A Plan of a Lottery is handed about to raise upwards of 100,000 £. free of all Expences and Deductions, for building a Bridge at Westminster, which consists of 125,000 Tickets, at 5 £. per Ticket, and three Blanks to a Prize; and according to the Scheme there are to be three several Drawings.

Next



Lent Preachers appointed to preach this Day,
Before his Majesty,
At Whitehall,
St. Paul's Cathedral.
St. Catherine's near the Tower,
St. Magnus by London Bridge,
St. Bartholomew the Great,
St. Giles's Cripplegate,
St. Anne's Westminster,
St. James's Clerkenwell,

Dr. Stebbing.
Mr. Bullock.
Dr. Pelling.
Dr. Crowe.
Mr. Wyat.
Mr. Rayner.
Mr. Shenton.
Mr. Tough.
Dr. Nichols.

Yesterday his Majesty was pleased to sign several
Commissions for Officers in the Land Service.

The same Day died Mrs. Whitteman, an old Maid,
about 70 Years of Age, at her Lodgings by Queen-
street, Westminster, by whose Death an Estate of
about 400 l. per Ann. devolves to her Neice, who was
lately married to a Clergyman.

Also the same Day died at his House in New Bond-
street, the Rev. Mr. White, one of the Fellows of
Clare-hall in Cambridge.

Next Monday his Majesty will go to the House of
Peers, to give the Royal Assent to the Land Tax Bill,
and to the other publick and private Bills ready for the
Royal Assent.

Yesterday the Right Hon. the Earl of Leicester
lay very ill at his House in Leicester Fields.

The same Day — Dashwood, Esq; lay at the
Point of Death, at his House in Grosvenor-street.

Last Thursday the Rev. Mr. Charles Reynolds,
M. A. Chaplain to the Lord Bishop of Lincoln, and
Rector of Spridnix in the County of Lincoln, was
inducted into the Rectory of Fillingham, in the
County and Diocese of Lincoln.

Yesterday Thomas Delap, Esq; a young Gentle-
man of a good Estate, in the County of Warwick,
was married at Clapham, to Mrs. Towers, Relict of
Towers, of the County of Surrey, Esq;

Last Friday died at his House at Cheshunt in the
County of Hertford, Stephen Foulkes, Esq; a Gen-
tleman of about 2000 l. per Ann.

Yesterday Morning his Royal Highness the Prince
of Wales, attended by several Persons of Distinction,
took the Air on Horseback round Kensington Gra-
vel Pits, Hamersmith, Brumpton, &c. and about two
o'Clock returned to St. James's.

The same Morning her Royal Highness the Prin-
cess of Wales, and the Princess Amelia, walked for
some Time in the Green Park, St. James's.

The French Trader that was drove on Shore on
Sunday last in Sandwich Bay, is got off, and sailed on
Monday for Dover Peer.

Last Monday was imported from Hamburg 2140
Ells of Linen; from Holland 300 lb. of Quicksilver,
and 40 Reams of Paper; and from Jamaica 1000 lb.
of Indigo, 600 lb. of Pimento, and 7000 lb. of Sar-
saparilla.

The same Day was exported for the Streights 196
C. of Leather, 100 lb. of Lead Shot, 200 lb. Sper-
maceti, 1200 Quarters of Wheat, 30 of Wheat
Meal, and 200 Pieces of Stuffs.

For Spain 800 Quarters of Wheat, and 500 of
Barley; for Portugal 600 Quarters of Wheat Meal,
and 650 of Wheat; for Lisbon 800 Quarters of
Wheat; for Genoa 200 Quarters of Wheat Meal;
and for Madeira 200 lb. of Gunpowder.

On Monday last Sarah Neale was committed to
Newgate by Col. De Veil, for feloniously and pri-
vately stealing Goods out of the Shop of Mr. Joseph
Ashley, to the Value of 35 Shillings; and Yesterday
James Abbot was committed to the same Place by
the same Gentleman, for ripping a great Quantity of
Lead off the Houle of Mr. Walter Lee, found upon
him; as were the Goods taken out of the Shop of
Mr. Joseph Ashley upon Sarah Neal aforesaid.

Last Night arrived a Mail from Holland. The
Advises it brings, if material, shall be communicated in
our next.

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thers on the Children.

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Paris, Jan. 29, 1731.

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back from him; but he had then sent it to Holland. One of
the Society, who lived at Amsterdam, hearing it said, soon
after, to a Catholick Bookseller, by Name Van Eyke, that
Schipper was printing a Book which concerned the Jesuits,
replied, that if it was only *The Rules of the Society*, he should
not be under any Concern; but desired he would inform him-
self what it was. Being told by the Bookseller, that it was
The Secret Instructions of the Society, the good Father, shrug-
ging up his Shoulders, and knitting his Brow, said, that he
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bicund Colour; the Fragrancy of its Odour also renders the
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